

# Egremont 1865 Basket Picnic

## July 21, 2013

<b><u>Soldiers</u></b>	<b><u>Portrayed By</u></b>
<b>Capt. George W. Austin</b> , unable to farm, worked as a hotel keeper, restaurant keeper, and First Deputy Sheriff in New York State. He moved to North Egremont before 1890, and died here at the age of 67 in 1893. The Captain and his widow, Maria, are buried at Riverside Cemetery	Matt Syrett
<b>Lieut. Robert Sherman</b> continued to look after his friend Eugene's family, making an affidavit in support of their application for pension. An excellent machinist before the war, he was severely wounded in the head and chest and moved his family to Westfield and become a whip manufacturer. He died in 1893, the "results of epileptiform seizures."	Keane Decker
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Robert Gardner</b> married and moved to Michigan after the death of his father. His brother-in-law and sister, Frederick W. and Mary Jane Gardner Cleaveland, had already moved there. 1st Sgt. Gardner became a farmer and lived with his family in Michigan until his death at age 64 in 1902.	Gregory Cherin
<b>Corp. George Palmatier</b> stayed in Egremont and raised his family. Like his forebears, he opened his own shoe business in North Egremont despite his war wounds, eventually employing eleven people there. His grave, marked by a GAR marker, a small white stone, and a flag, is in the oldest part of Town House Hill Cemetery.	Jackson Teeley
<b>Corp. William J. Karner</b> moved first to Missouri, then to Illinois. He married M. Louise Dewey, Seymour's B. Dewey's daughter. He worked as clerk, and later as lumber dealer, before becoming a civil engineer and assistant to the Chief Engineer of the Panama Canal. He died at the age of 90 and was buried in Gt. Barrington. His memoirs, <u>Recollections</u> and <u>More Recollections</u> , provide a view of Egremont you might enjoy discovering!	Myron Hood
<b>Pvt. William B. Stark</b> and family moved west to dense forest near Denmark, Michigan. Six of his brothers and a sister joined them. In 1875, William and his family, with two other families, went on to Kansas, in covered wagons. He and his family later returned to Denmark, where he died in about 1907. Pvt. Stark's diary and sketches of the war were recently sold at auction. Copies of a few pages, published in <i>The Atlantic</i> in 1938, are on view at the Archives Room of the Academy Building.	Dan Ruderman
<b>Pvt. Henry VanTassell</b> , plagued by chronic rheumatism, may have worked as an innkeeper, perhaps at Mount Everett Inn. His real interest was horses, as reflected in his work: "teaming," as a horse trainer, and winning a prize at the Housatonic Agricultural Society for his trotting horse, "Madison Wilkes." He died in 1916, age 81. His grave, decorated with other Civil War soldiers' graves, is in the Mount Everett Cemetery.	John Decker
<b><u>Soldiers Lost</u></b>	<b><u>Portrayed By</u></b>
Widow Mary Upson Benjamin, widow of <b>1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Nathan O. Benjamin</b> , 131st New York Infantry. They had a son, Somers (age 3), and a daughter, Mary (age 5).	Katelyn Leveille
Mark & Sarah Kelsey, parents of <b>Pvt. Charles Kelsey</b> , would lose two more of their children, here, to typhoid fever, and one to consumption.	Vincent & Ann Murphy
<b><u>Soldiers' Family Members</u></b>	<b><u>Portrayed By</u></b>
Mrs. Elizabeth Austin	Cynthia Wade Syrett
Mrs. Nancy Sherman	Beth Connell of 15 <sup>th</sup> Mass. Volunteer Infantry
Mrs. Hannah Palmatier	Elinor Cherin

Mrs. Eliza Karner, Corp. Karner's mother	Di Stobaeus
Mistress Jenny Benjamin and friend	Zoe Becker & Sophie Zah-Greenspan
Mrs. Jane Stark	Rebecca Turner
Mistress Emma Stark & friend	Genevieve Syrett & Claire Syrett
<b><u>Outstanding Citizens</u></b>	<b><u>Portrayed By</u></b>
Master of Ceremonies, Selectman Seymour B. Dewey	Tom Gage
Mrs. W. J. Curtiss	Sofié Ruderman
Widow Sarah Curtis Upson	Michele Valanzano
Mrs. Parthenia Fenn	Gail Ryan

### **Special Appearances**

Re-enactors: The 15<sup>th</sup> Mass. Volunteers Infantry, Worcester, sponsored by Ursula Cliff  
The Lukas Schwartz Blue Ribbon Trio, sponsored by Marj Wexler  
Claudia & Wynn Berman, brass, Carl Sandburg Middle School, Alexandria, Virginia

### **Special Thanks**

The Friends of Egremont History wish to extend very special thanks to many people, beginning with our generous and enthusiastic hosts, the Egremont Village Inn (Sarah Keene and the Gigi & Tom Teeley family), and then to the following in no particular order: Michele Valanzano (<http://genealogy.stellarwinds.org>) and Elisabeth Wood (biographical research); local historians Gary Leveille and James Parrish, and Egremont Historical Commission members James Nicol Cooper and Bill Wood (historical research); First Congregational Church of South Egremont, Egremont Fire Department, Lucinda Vermeulen of Kenver, Ltd., and Robert Johnson, owner of the former Egremont Inn property (parking areas); Will Brinker, Egremont's Administrator's Assistant (recipe clerk); Diane Fratalone and James Parrish (cemetery research and soldiers' graves decoration); James Parrish (cemetery guard); Mount Everett Cemetery Association; Ted & Eileen Vining and Tom Sierau (wagon specialists); Penny Pitts (posters); Aaron Becker (regimental carpenter); Pvt. Bill Wood and Aide Elisabeth Wood (parking guard duty); Patrick Bonavitacola, Bruce MacDonald, Gillian Siedl, Susan Buchholtz, Judy Pieschel (invaluable input); Haupt Tree Co. (Peter Haupt) and Pvt. Wood (for lifting the banner high!); Cynthia Wade Syrett (Facebook event page creator and advertising); Elena Berman (Facebook manager); Dan Karp (photography for Facebook event page and advertising); Robin Goldberg (provider of burlap bags); Elena Berman, Rowan Berman, and Hayley Syrett (mistresses of children's area); Claudia Berman (cast and workers' hostess); Susan Bachelder ("green" paper supplies and general source of good ideas); Sue Fisch (costume aide); Big Y Foods, The Old Mill, Henry & Marilyn Granger, Jim Lamme & Wendy Linscott, the First Congregational Church of South Egremont (help with feeding and clothing our soldiers); Mount Everett Landscaping (portapotties); Egremont's Board of Selectmen (help and support); Fire Department, including Women's Support Team (lemonade and water); Egremont Police Department (traffic control); Shakespeare & Co. (costumes and uniforms); and Lucinda Vermeulen of Kenver, Ltd. (help with programs).

**Visit five of our Civil War soldiers' graves, decorated today with flowers in our soldiers' honor, at the historic Mount Everett Cemetery next door.**

**Visit today until 4:30 pm. (as well as every 1st Saturday from 9 to noon) the Egremont Historical Commission's Archives Room, upstairs at The Academy, just south of the Mount Everett Cemetery. See there a copy of a portion of Pvt. Stark's diary and a newly researched listing of the men who served Egremont and their country in the Civil War.**

**Produced by Lynn H. Wood and Marj Wexler, Co-Chairs,  
FRIENDS OF EGREMONT HISTORY**